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CODE



JAN.

NO. 59

12¢

CHALLENGER OF THE UNKNOWN

THERE NEVER WAS
AN EVIL LIKE ...
"The **PETRIFIED
GIANT!**"



THE WORLD'S GREATEST FEAR-FIGHTERS!

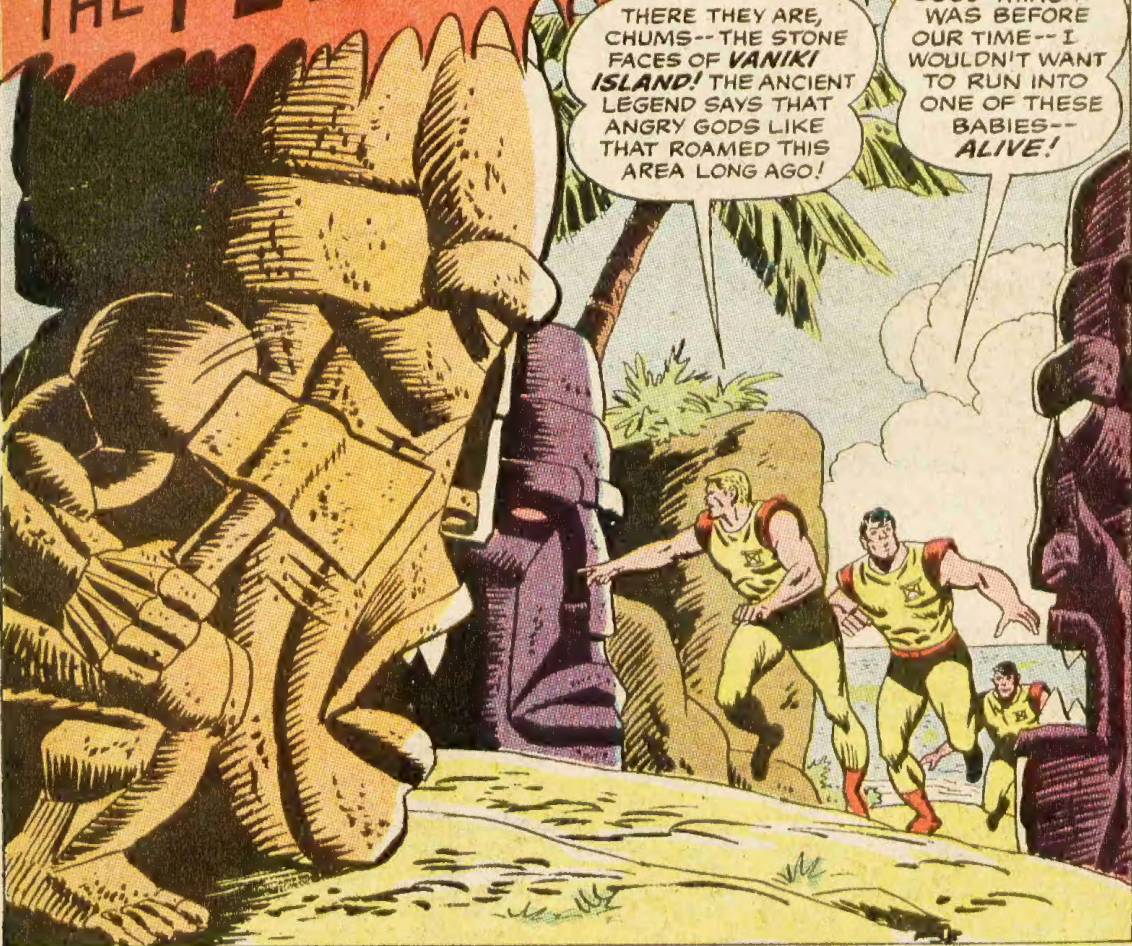
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

A PRIMITIVE LEGEND HAS COME TO LIFE IN THE 20TH CENTURY! IN A TINY CORNER OF THE WORLD, HE RULES WITH A HEART AS HARD AS HIS **STONE BODY!** AND WITH EACH DAY HIS POWER GROWS UNTIL, IF NO ONE STOPS HIM, THE WORLD ITSELF WILL FALL BENEATH...

"SEEKEENAKEE-- THE PETRIFIED GIANT!"

THERE THEY ARE, CHUMS-- THE STONE FACES OF **VANIKI ISLAND!** THE ANCIENT LEGEND SAYS THAT ANGRY GODS LIKE THAT ROAMED THIS AREA LONG AGO!

GOOD THING IT WAS BEFORE OUR TIME-- I WOULDN'T WANT TO RUN INTO ONE OF THESE BABIES-- **ALIVE!**



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IN THE RADIO ROOM OF THE **CHALLENGERS'** HEAD-QUARTERS, AT THE LOWEST POINT OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN...

DAH-DIDIT
DIT
DIH-DAH-DAH
DAH-DIDDLE
DIDIT

WHAT'S WITH YOU, PROF? YOU
HAVEN'T MOVED FROM THAT SET
FOR HOURS!

I'M WORRIED,
ACE!
REMEMBER
KING TULAGA?

THAT ISLAND
RULER
YOU'VE BEEN
PLAYING
CHESS WITH
BY RADIO
FOR YEARS?
WHAT ABOUT
HIM?

I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE
TO CONTACT HIM FOR
SIX WEEKS! AND
HE'S NEVER MISSED
A WEEKLY SESSION
BEFORE!

SO LET'S GO
SEE WHAT'S
CHECKMATE!
YOUR CHESS
BUDDY!

MAN, EVERY TIME
WE GO LOOKIN'
FOR TROUBLE, I
MISS OUR OL'
PAL, RED!

WE ALL DO,
ROCKY! BUT
DEATH IS
THE ONE
JUDGE THAT
NOBODY CAN
OVERRIDE!

VROOOSH

TULAGA IS ONE OF THE LAST REMAINING
POLYNESIAN KINGS! HE'S WORKED HARD,
BRINGING MODERN CIVILIZATION TO HIS
PEOPLE! I SURE HOPE HE'S OKAY!

WE'LL KNOW SOON
ENOUGH! THERE'S
VANIKI ISLAND!

SPLASHHH

DIG THIS CRAZY CANOE
COMMITTEE! LOOKS LIKE
WE GOT LOTS OF FRIENDS
HERE!

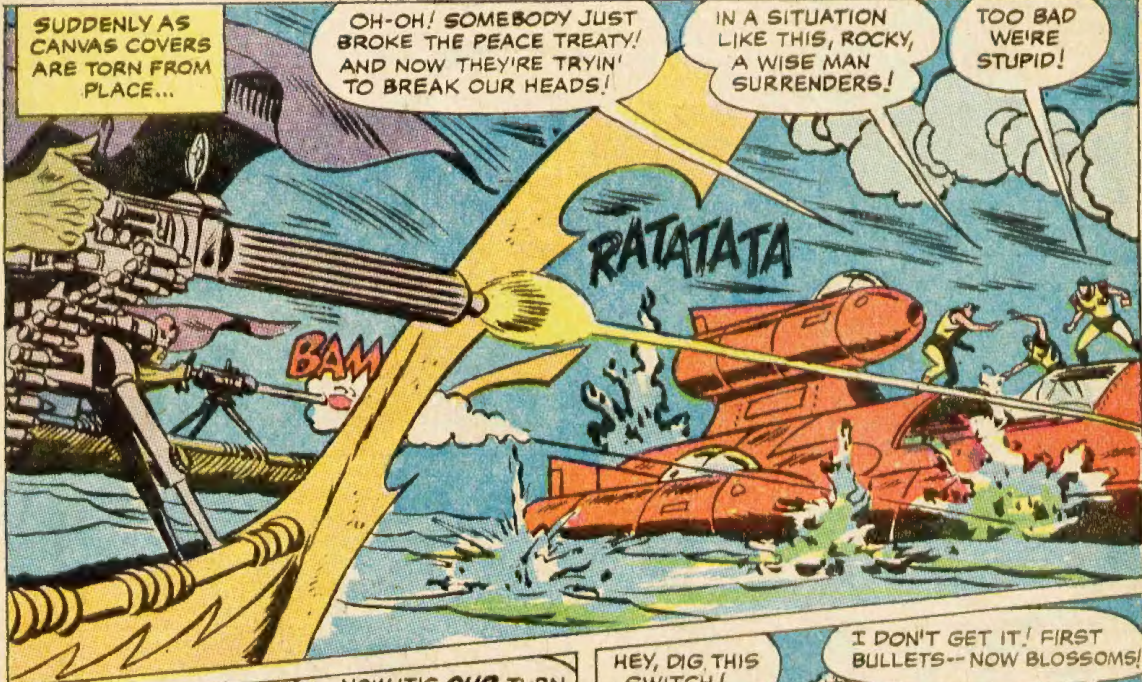
THEY'RE CALLED WAR CANOES--
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN A THING!
TULAGA'S PEOPLE HAVE LIVED
AT PEACE FOR YEARS!

SUDDENLY AS
CANVAS COVERS
ARE TORN FROM
PLACE...

OH-OH! SOMEBODY JUST
BROKE THE PEACE TREATY!
AND NOW THEY'RE TRYIN'
TO BREAK OUR HEADS!

IN A SITUATION
LIKE THIS, ROCKY,
A WISE MAN
SURRENDERS!

TOO BAD
WE'RE
STUPID!



THEY'VE STOPPED
FIRING! GETTING
READY TO
BOARD US!

NOW IT'S *OUR* TURN
TO FORM A RECEPTION
COMMITTEE! READY
WITH *OPERATION
SPLIT LIP!*

HEY, DIG THIS
SWITCH!
THEY'RE
TOSSIN'
FLOWERS
AT US!

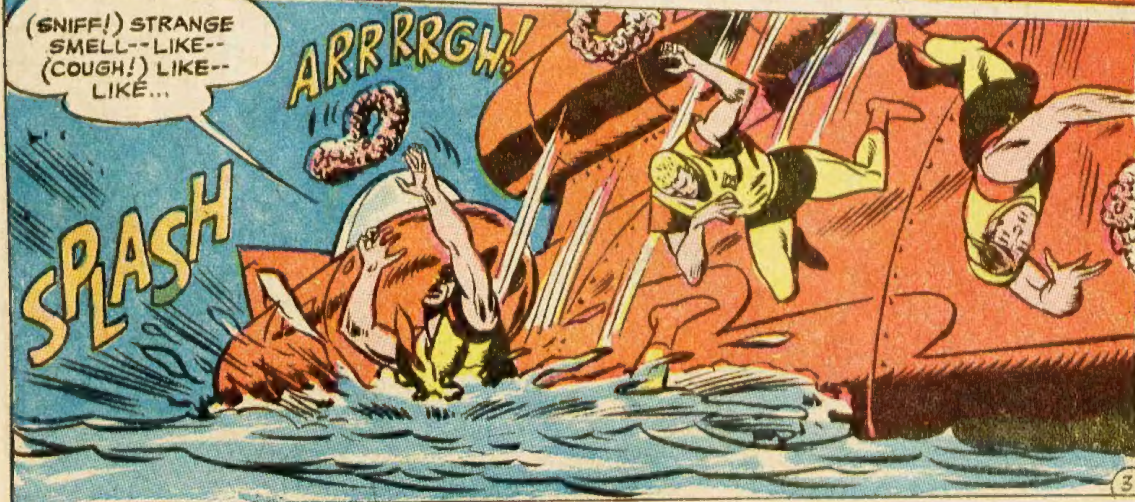
I DON'T GET IT! FIRST
BULLETS-- NOW BLOSSOMS!

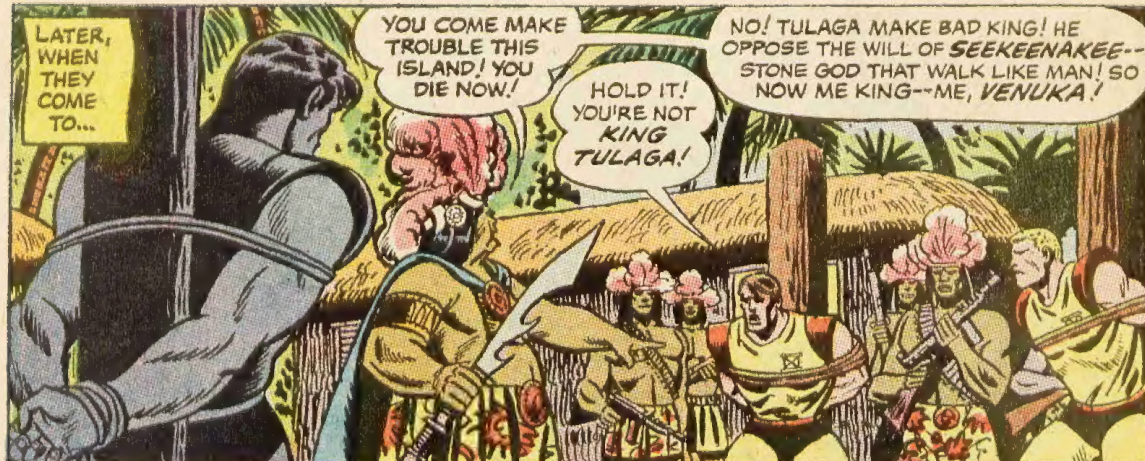


(SNIFF!) STRANGE
SMELL--LIKE--
(COUGH!) LIKE--
LIKE...

ARRRRGH!

SPLASH





LATER,
WHEN
THEY
COME
TO...

YOU COME MAKE
TROUBLE THIS
ISLAND! YOU
DIE NOW!

HOLD IT!
YOU'RE NOT
KING
TULAGA!

NO! TULAGA MAKE BAD KING! HE
OPPOSE THE WILL OF **SEEKEENAKEE**--
STONE GOD THAT WALK LIKE MAN! SO
NOW ME KING--ME, **VENUKA**!



THAT'S **SEEKEENAKEE**-- THEY'RE
IDOLS OF SOME ANCIENT
GOD! THEY'RE RELATED
TO THE FAMOUS STONE
FACES OF EASTER
ISLAND!

HEY, PROF, COULD YOU
CUT THE ANTHROPOLOGY
LECTURE? I THINK
THESE GUYS MEAN
BUSINESS!

NOW WE THROW YOU DOWN **TAMUA**,
HOLE THAT HAS NO BOTTOM!
REMOVE THEIR BINDS!

THUS DIE ALL
WHO OPPOSE--
SEEKEENAKEE!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.



KASPLASH

OOOF! MAN, WE'RE IN LUCK-- THIS THING'S FULL OF WATER!



WHAT'S SO LUCKY ABOUT IT? SURE, WE'RE ALIVE-- BUT WE'LL NEVER CLIMB THESE SHEER, SLIPPERY WALLS! WE'RE FINISHED!

HMM! I WONDER! YOU GUYS WAIT RIGHT HERE!



OKAY, IF YOU INSIST! BUT I WAS ACTUALLY THINKIN' OF RUNNIN' OUT TO A MOVIE OR SOMETHIN'!

HAR-DE-HAR-HAR!

SPLASH



FWOOSH

SLURPPP



YAHOOOO! I JUST FOUND THE COMBINATION TO THIS LOCK! FOLLOW PAPA-- AND DO JUST LIKE I DO!

LIKE I DO? MAN, YOU MUST BE EXCITED-- YOU'RE TALKIN' AS BAD AS ME!



HOLY COW-- HE'S FILLIN' UP THAT HOLE WITH ROCKS! WHAT A TIME FOR KID GAMES! WELL-- MIGHT AS WELL FOLLOW THE NUT!



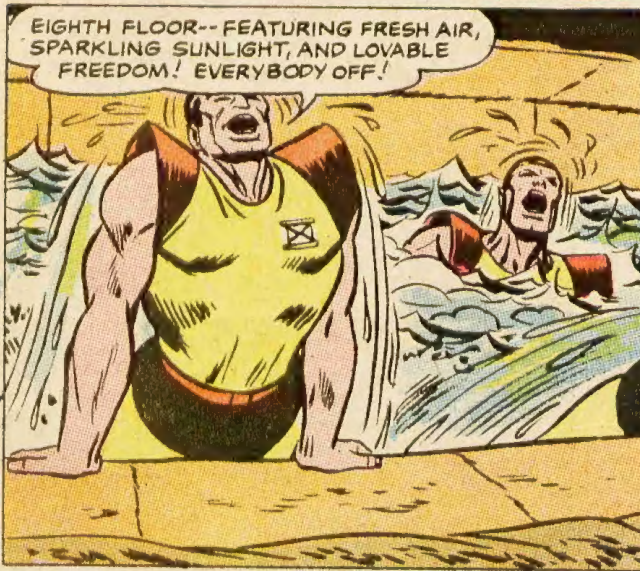
THAT SHOULD DO IT-- THE EXHAUST HOLE IS BLOCKED! NOW WE'LL SURFACE AND SEE IF THIS GIMMICK WORKS!



HEY-- THE WATER'S RISIN'! YEAH--YEAH-- I GET IT NOW!

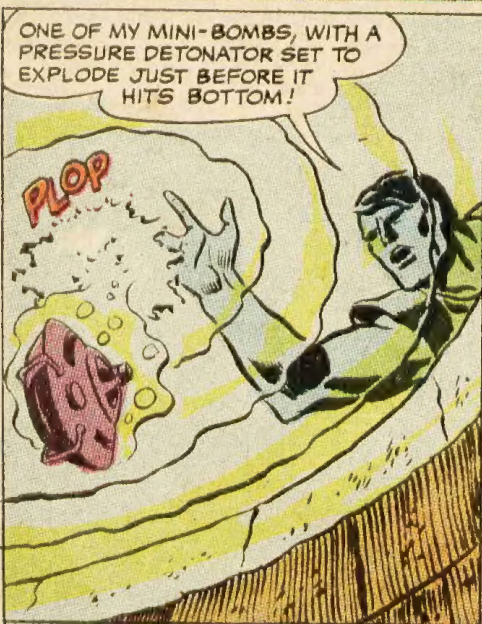
WE FILLED UP THE DRAINAGE HOLE, BUT THE INTAKE IS STILL OPERATING! SO WE'RE RISIN' ON A WATER ELEVATOR!

YAHOOO!



EIGHTH FLOOR-- FEATURING FRESH AIR, SPARKLING SUNLIGHT, AND LOVABLE FREEDOM! EVERYBODY OFF!

ROGER! BUT NOW WE'VE GOTTA TURN THE FAUCET OFF BEFORE THE SINK RUNS OVER AND DROWNS THE WHOLE ISLAND!



ONE OF MY MINI-BOMBS, WITH A PRESSURE DETONATOR SET TO EXPLODE JUST BEFORE IT HITS BOTTOM!

PLOP



THERE SHE BLOWS!

NOW LET'S PAY THAT CREEP VENUKA A VISIT AND SEE WHAT HE DID TO THE KING!

YOU KNOW, I GOT A HUNCH IT WAS MORE THAN JUST DROPPIN' HIM IN A WATER HOLE!

NOW WHAT'S ALL THIS JAZZ ABOUT SEEKEENAKEE?

A LEGEND, ROCKY-- A STONE GOD WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO RUN THE SHOW AROUND HERE MAYBE A THOUSAND YEARS AGO! THEN THAT WISE GUY, VENUKA, DECIDED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT!

HE PROBABLY TOLD THE PEOPLE THAT SEEKEENAKEE HAD RETURNED-- THAT HE, VENUKA, HAD SPOKEN TO HIM AND WAS NOW GIVING ORDERS IN HIS NAME!

AND THE PEOPLE BELIEVED THAT STONE GIANT BALONEY? HA!



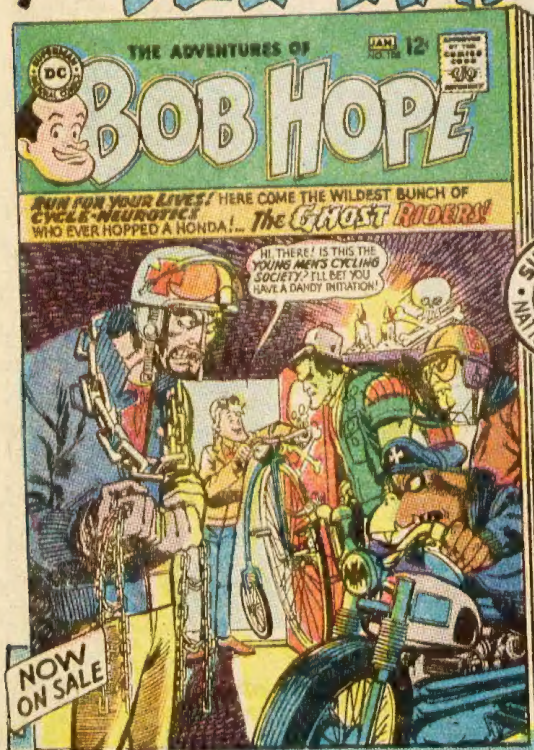
HOLD, INTRUDERS! DO NOT MOVE YET ANOTHER STEP! YOU STAND BEFORE-- **SEEKEENAKEE!** HE AT WHOM YOU LAUGHED ONE MOMENT AGO! NOW, WHAT SAY YOU, FOOLS?

HUHH-- WELL-- NOTHIN' MUCH-- EXCEPT, MAYBE-- COULD I TAKE BACK THAT LAUGH?



CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

For **BELLY LAFFS** or **BLAZING ACTION...**



LET'S CHAT WITH THE CHALLS

Address all mail to:
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN
National Periodicals
575 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022



Dear Editor:

The CHALLS is my favorite magazine, but aside from the strong stories and dynamically dramatic art, there's another reason for my choice. That is their deliberate avoidance of the use of super-weapons other than Prof's miniature lab, concealed in his cigarette case, and the occasional use of their mini-bombs. I believe equipping them with any sort of super-weapon would rob them of the reality that's made them so unique in the current crop of magazines.

Brian Smith, Garden City, N.Y.

We've had many missives, pro and con, about their lack of weapons. We have no intention of equipping them, but we can't tell what might happen in the foreseeable future. But if they do delve into the arsenal they inherited from Scientist X, you can be sure it would only be temporarily. Not too long ago, our champ CHALLS used to carry .45's, but they found out that fast footwork and trigger-quick thinking was superior to a swift trigger-finger.—Ed.

Dear Editor:

As one of your newly acquired fans, I'm very eager to obtain past issues of the CHALLS. Would I be out of order to specify the issues and send you the money?

Theodore Mirksy, Monroe, N.Y.

Yes, very much so, we're sorry to say! Some of our frantic fans carelessly overlooked these cherished comments the last time around, so we have to clue them and you in on the regrettable fact that back numbers of the CHALLS are no longer available. Demands to buy them were so overwhelming, we ran out of copies on hand. But like we reported, if you're gonna blow a fuse because you've just gotta have certain past copies of our classic comic, write us and we'll strain ourselves to relay it to a source that may be helpful.—Ed.

CHALLS' CHIT-CHAT: "Here's an idea for a new CHALL," offers Judi Goldberg of Bethesda, Md. "He's Ian Walter-Matthews, with a mind like a calculating machine, an Englishman, 6 feet, 2 inches, with black hair and blue eyes. He wears mod clothes, but in your heart you know he's right. He's rather thin with long,

lean muscles." (Sorry we can't include your dreamboat in our cast, Judi. One home-grown Tino, slightly smaller, is enough!—Ed.) . . . And Ronald Frazier of Philadelphia, Pa. urges us not to appoint Tino a CHALL because his busy brain competes with Prof's. As if we gave it a second thought!—Ed. . . . Harvey Sobel of Commack, N.Y. is looking forward to a return appearance of Multi-Man. All we can do is hint to Harv and the multitude of Multi-Man minions to go no further than the next issue!—Ed.

"Hey, how come some of the energy lines were omitted in the depiction of Power Man in No. 57's 'Kook and the Kilowatt Killer'?" asks Bonnie Ziff of Los Angeles. (Better look again, Bonnie, and you'll see that they're shown only after he rejuvenates himself with a blast of electrical energy.—Ed.) . . . "The nerve of you guys! Claiming to score a first by killing off a hero in No. 57," snaps Chris Hansen of Washington, Ill. "For your information, Ferro-Lad of the Legion of Super-Heroes sacrificed himself in 'Adventure Comics' No. 353." . . . "Yeah, why should 'a world that will little care or remember Red,' as you put it, remember him if you don't remember Ferro-Lad?" echoes Joe Mantano of Albuquerque, N.M. (Okay, all you ravin' aroused readers, we humbly stand corrected.—Ed.)

"I have to tell you the first time I bought the CHALLS," reports Irving Parchman of Los Angeles. "I was rockin' with excitement!" (And rollin' too?—Ed.) . . . "Any chance of getting the Iron Dictator and Dimension Man back into swingin' action?" asks Tony Isabella of Cleveland. (Sure 'nough, but give us time.—Ed.) . . . "Your yarns are so great and suspenseful," cheers Leslie Lees from Kearny, N.J., "they set me on pins and needles." (Thanks, Les, but you'd better keep reading 'em standing up!—Ed.) . . . To James McGee of Hurst, Texas; Kent Cochran, Gary, Ind.; James Brandon, Rector, Ark.; David Lewin, Lomita, Calif., and a whole crew of critics who point out that some time ago we showed Red's kid, so how come we could kill him off, we must point out that that was strictly a fantasy that moved the CHALLS' collective minds into the future.—Ed.



COME ON, CHUMS-- GIVE ME A HAND WITH THIS TREE! WE'LL CUT THAT STONE NIGHTMARE DOWN TO SIZE WITH HIS OWN WEAPON!



AROOOOF!

DID HE SAY, OOF?

NO--I BELIEVE HE SAID, "AROOOOF" WHICH IS THE EARLY ENGLISH OR MIDDLE GERMAN FORM! DR. KOPFSHRINKER WROTE AN INTERESTING PAPER ON IT RECENTLY!



SO ASK THE DOC WHAT TO DO ABOUT THIS KIND OF SITUATION!

OHhh, HE HANDLED THAT YEARS AGO! HIS PRECISE ADVICE WAS, I BELIEVE-- DUUUUUUCK!



IN A SEQUEL TO THAT SAME PAPER, HE ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO THE NEXT PROBLEM!

YES...WHEREIN THAT ERUDITE GENTLEMAN SUGGESTED ONLY ONE COURSE OF ACTION--

SHUT UP AND RUUUUN!

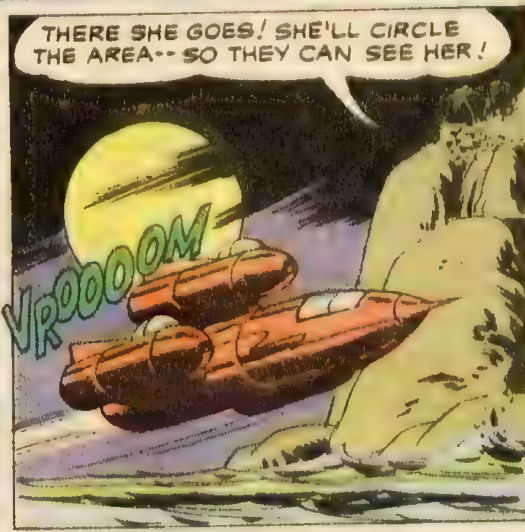
THE GOOD DOCTOR'S WORDS PRECISELY!



SHORTLY...

THOSE WHO COME HERE IN THE GIANT BIRD-- THEY SEEK TO DESTROY ME, YOUR GOD! KILL THEM!

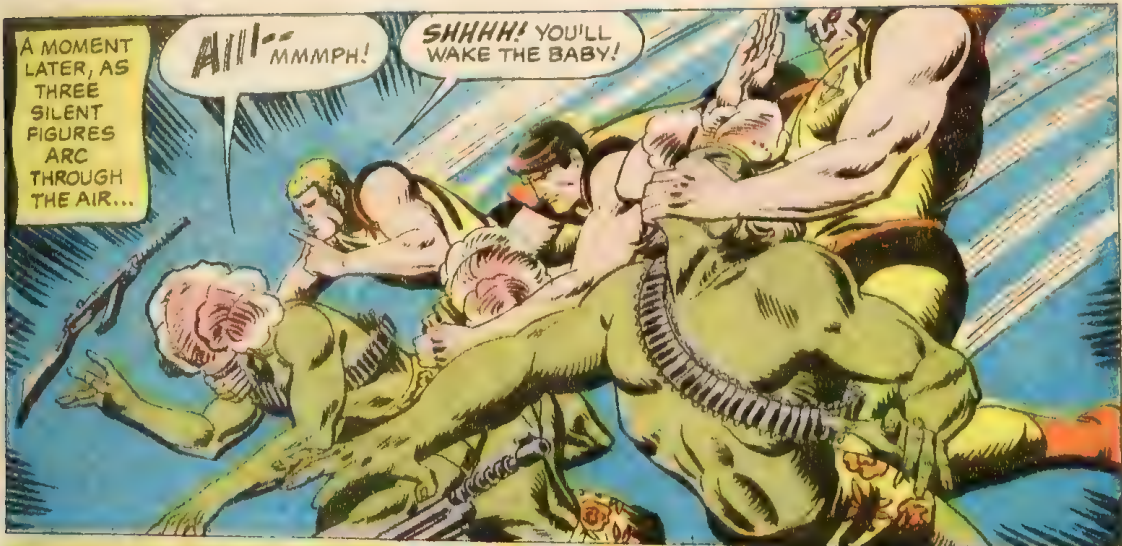
KILL-LL!



A MOMENT LATER, AS THREE SILENT FIGURES ARC THROUGH THE AIR...

Arr-- MMMPH!

SHHHH! YOU'LL WAKE THE BABY!



THEN, AFTER THREE POLYNESIANS ARE ROCKED TO SLEEP...

HOW'S THIS, BUDDY? DO I CUT A DANDY FIGURE?

THEY'LL CUT YOUR DANDY FIGURE TO PIECES IF YOU DON'T HIDE THAT BABY-PINK SKIN! RUB SOME EARTH ON YOURSELF!



BOOM - BADA - BOOM - BOOM

YOU HEAR THAT?

DRUMS! YOU THINK IT'S RINGO STARR?

NO, I THINK IT'S A LOCAL EDITION OF THE ROLLING STONES-- THE SHRINKING HEADS!



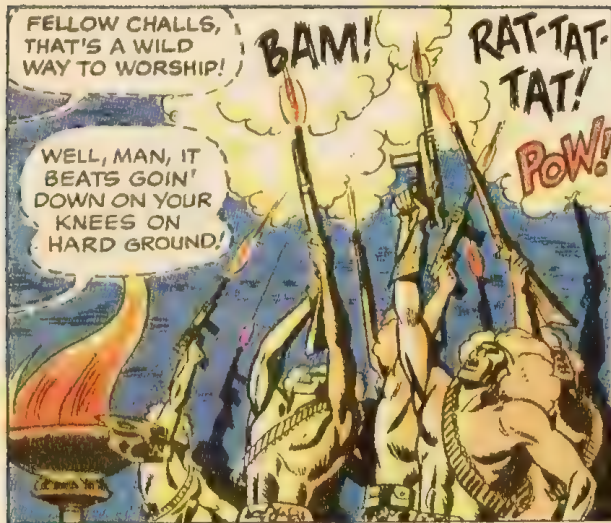
HEY-- IT LOOKS LIKE A PEP RALLY THE NIGHT BEFORE THE BIG GAME!

WHO'S THE FOUR BASHFUL CATS UP THERE WITH OL' STONE FACE?

I DON'T KNOW-- BUT THEY USE THE SAME TAILOR AS THE KU KLUX KLAN!

SILENCE! PREPARE TO WORSHIP THE LIVING GOD-- SEEKEE-NAKEE!





FELLOW CHALLS,
THAT'S A WILD
WAY TO WORSHIP!

BAM!

RAT-TAT-
TAT!
POW!

WELL, MAN, IT
BEATS GOIN'
DOWN ON YOUR
KNEES ON
HARD GROUND!

THAT RAISES
A QUESTION
THAT'S BEEN
BOTHERING ME
SINCE WE
LANDED!
THESE ARE A
PEACEFUL,
PRIMITIVE
PEOPLE, SO--

-- WHERE'D THEY GET
THE RIFLES FROM?
ANSWER'S SIMPLE--
"SEEKEENAKEE
AND YE SHALL FIND!"

I GOT AN
EVEN
BETTER
QUESTION
FOR YOU
CATS!



HOW COME ONE OF THEM
"ASSISTANT GODS" IS
WEARIN' HIGH HEELS?

WELL DONE, MY
PEOPLE! THE
INVADERS ARE
DRIVEN OFF
AND SOON WE
SHALL SHOW
THAT SAME
POWER TO
EVERY ISLAND
IN THE
SEA!

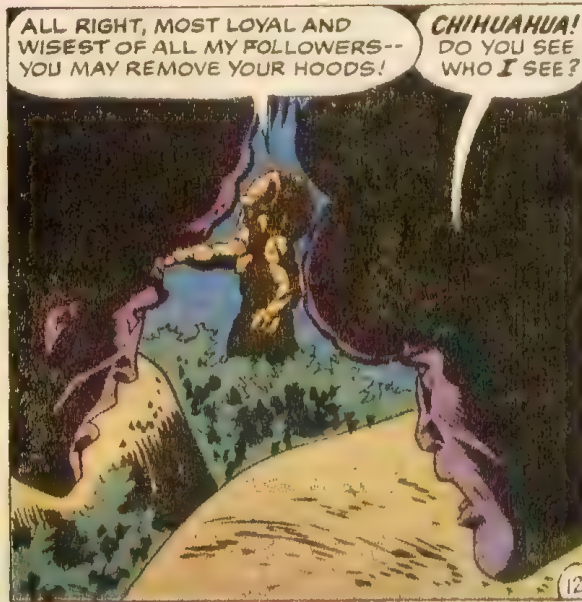


NOW
BE GONE--
SEEKEENAKEE
MUST TALK
WITH--THE
HOLY FOUR!



OKAY, LET'S
GO-- BUT
NOT TOO
FAR!

RIGHT! WE WANNA SLIP BACK
AND SEE HOW COME ONE OF
THE HOLY FOUR BUYS HER
SHOES IN PARIS!



ALL RIGHT, MOST LOYAL AND
WISEST OF ALL MY FOLLOWERS--
YOU MAY REMOVE YOUR HOODS!

CHIHUAHUA!
DO YOU SEE
WHO I SEE?



HAIL SEEKEENAKEE!



*RED'S KID BROTHER.



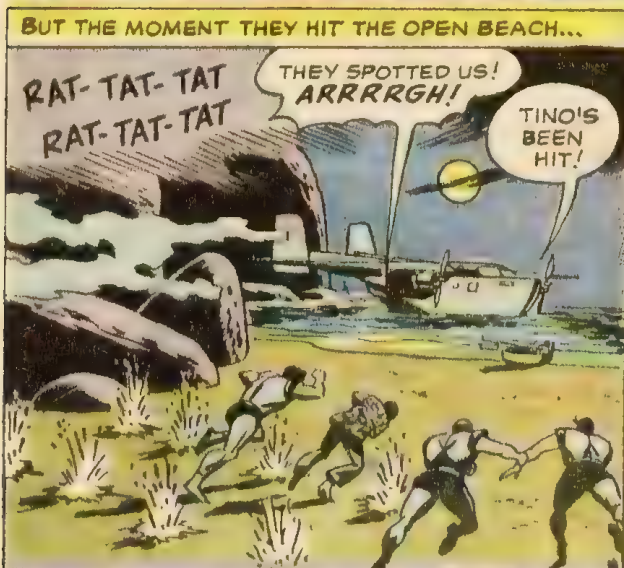


WE ARE READY NOW, MY LOYAL BAND! READY TO STRIKE AT OANA! ONCE WE HAVE TAKEN THAT ISLAND, WE WILL SPREAD ACROSS THE SOUTH PACIFIC! GO NOW-- EXECUTE **PLAND!**



OANA? THAT'S TEN TIMES BIGGER THAN THIS ISLAND-- AND IT HAS A SMALL ARMY! HOW ARE THEY GONNA--?

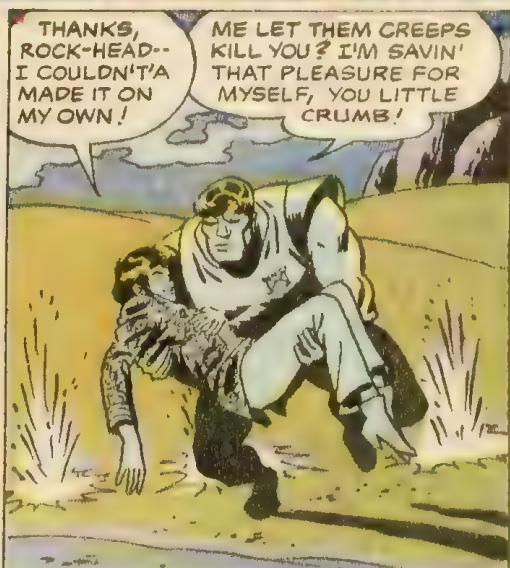
STOP WITH THE **QUESTIONS**--LET'S GO GET SOME **ANSWERS!** MY PLANE'S ANCHORED AT THE SOUTH END OF THE ISLAND! HAVE TO RUN FOR IT!



RAT-TAT-TAT
RAT-TAT-TAT

THEY SPOTTED US! **ARRRRGH!**

TINO'S BEEN HIT!



THANKS, ROCK-HEAD-- I COULDN'T'A MADE IT ON MY OWN!

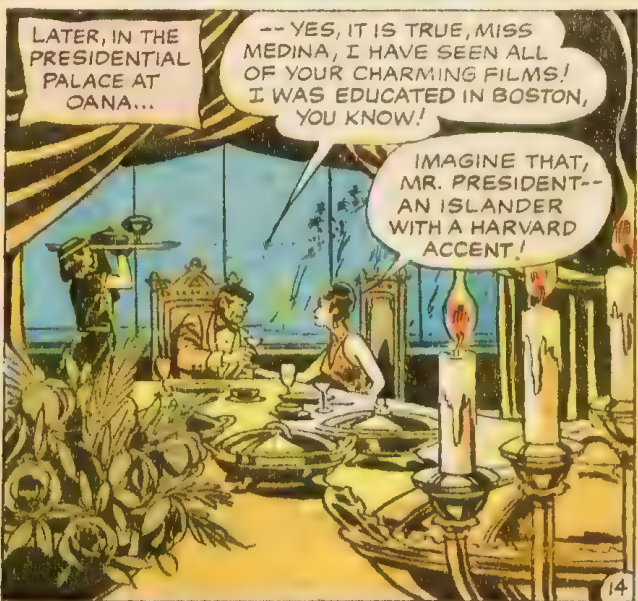
ME LET THEM CREEPS KILL YOU? I'M SAVIN' THAT PLEASURE FOR MYSELF, YOU LITTLE CRUMB!



SPUTTER-PUTT-FRRT-SPUT

IT'S JUST A SHOULDER WOUND... WHAT PLAYS? THE ENGINE WON'T START! MUST HAVE TAKEN A COUPLE OF SLUGS!

WELL, HURRY UP AND OPERATE, DOCTOR, BEFORE THEY WIPE OANA OFF THE MAP!



LATER, IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AT OANA...

-- YES, IT IS TRUE, MISS MEDINA, I HAVE SEEN ALL OF YOUR CHARMING FILMS! I WAS EDUCATED IN BOSTON, YOU KNOW!

IMAGINE THAT, MR. PRESIDENT-- AN ISLANDER WITH A HARVARD ACCENT!

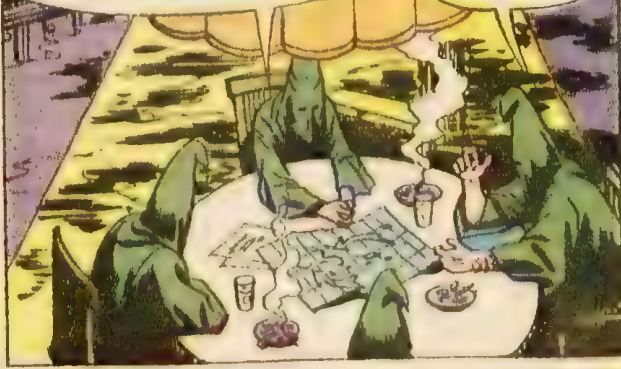
YOU'RE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS,
DARLING-- LOTS OF NATIVE SUNBURN
AND MUSCLES, PLUS A COOL,
CIVILIZED HEAD! KISS ME,
MY SWEET!



LATER, AT THE OANA ARMS HOTEL...

-- SO THE PRESIDENT IS IN MY
POCKET, **BROTHERS!** BUT HE
SAYS THE LOCAL SOLDIER BOY,
A COLONEL BRACKSHAW, WILL
FIGHT SEEKEENAKEE!

LEAVE THE
COLONEL
TO ME,
**SISTER
MEDINA!**



THE FOLLOWING DAY, AS THE LOCAL "ARMY"
PARADES...

HUP-TWOP-THREEP--
FOURP! LIFT THEM
HIGH, LADDIES!
HUP-- TWOP--

JUST TWO
MORE
STEPS,
COLONEL!



SIGNED, "WITH LOVE-- FROM THE
ALL-POWERFUL, SEEKEENAKEE!"

CRACK!



ARRRGH!

AT THAT SAME MOMENT, NEARBY...

MR. PRESIDENT, I BEG
YOU NOT TO FORCE THIS
UNCIVILIZED IDOL
WORSHIP UPON
YOUR PEOPLE!

YOU MISUNDER-
STAND, DR.
NEWBERRY--
SEEKEENAKEE
IS A **LIVING
GOD!** EVEN YOU
WILL SEE THAT
IN ANOTHER
FEW MINUTES!

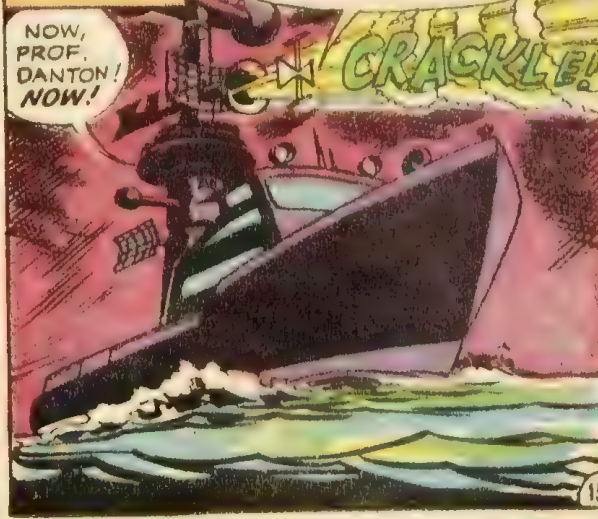


AND JUST OFF
THE SHORES
OF OANA...

I AM READY! AND THE
ULTRA-ENERGIZER
WILL NOT FAIL!

NOW,
PROF.
DANTON!
NOW!

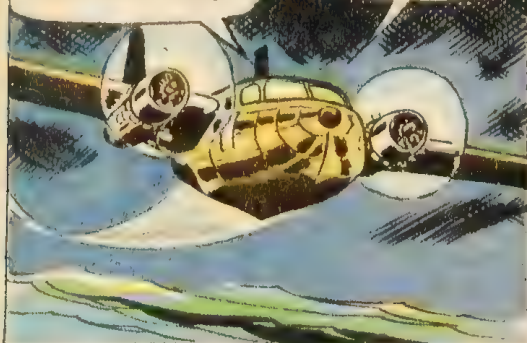
CRACKLE!



AND HERE COME THE TEN-O'CLOCK SCHOLARS...

WHAT I DON'T DIG, ACE, IS HOW COME A MOVIE STAR, A TOP EGGHEAD, A PROFESSIONAL KILLER AND A BIG-LEAGUE BANKER GOT TIED INTO THIS GIG?

POWER, ROCKY! LOTS OF FOLKS ARE POWER-HUNGRY--NOT JUST POLITICIANS AND KINGS!



CORRECTO! AND WHAT A FORMULA THEY'VE GOT-- BIG MONEY SCIENTIFIC KNOW-HOW, FEMININE APPEAL AND SUPERSTITION!

OKAY! BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT PHONY HURRICANE WARNING YOU RADIOED VANIKI AFTER WE TOOK OFF?

A LITTLE TRUMP CARD-- THAT I HOPE WE DON'T HAVE TO PLAY!



THERE'S THE LANDING STRIP ON OANA! EVERYTHING LOOKS OKAY!



ATTENTION, APPROACHING AIRCRAFT! THE LANDING FIELD IS CLEAR! PLEASE TAXI DIRECTLY INTO HANGAR AFTER LANDING!

OKAY, LET'S HANG UP THE SHIP AND GET MOVING! SEEKEE-NAKEE'S GANG HAS A GOOD LEAD ON US!



HEY! THE DOOR'S CLOSING!

KALAWNG!

ATTENTION, CHALLENGERS! YOU ARE NOW PRISONERS OF THE ALL POWERFUL-- SEEKEENAKEE!



I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT WE'VE BEEN HAD!

ACE, PAL-- DO ME A FAVOR! KICK ME!



SUDDENLY...

HOLY GUITAR! GET A LOAD OF THAT-- LIKE A TV IMAGE IN THE AIR!

YES--AND GENTLEMEN, THAT IS BUT ONE OF THE SCIENTIFIC WONDERS NOW POSSESSED BY US! I HAVE BEEN SENT AS AN EMISSARY TO SPEAK WITH YOU!

YOU'RE--MY KIND OF EMISSARY, SWEETIE! NOW WHAT'S ON YOUR BRAIN?

WE WILL GIVE YOU FIVE MINUTES TO DECIDE IF YOU SHALL JOIN US OR NOT!

HMMM! AND WHAT'S IN IT FOR US?

ARE YOU KIDDIN'? PUT IN WITH THESE KILLERS?

SIMMER DOWN, HOT STUFF! LET'S HEAR ALL SIDES OF THE QUESTION! WE MAY BE TURNING DOWN A GOOD THING!

THE SMALLER ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC WILL ALL BE OURS WITHIN THE WEEK! IN A MONTH, WE WILL BE ON THE MAINLAND OF SOUTHEAST ASIA! WE HAVE LIMITLESS FUNDS--WHICH MEANS PLENTY OF ARMS!

THOSE WHO DO NOT BOW TO THE GREAT SPIRIT OF SEEKEENAKEE, WILL FALL TO HIS GUNS! AND THAT INCLUDES CUTE LITTLE BOYS LIKE YOU!

LADY, I THINK YOU JUST MADE YOURSELF A DEAL!

Y--YOU MEAN YOU'RE GOING ALONG WITH THIS, TOO, PROF?

ACE IS JUST BEING PRACTICAL, BUDDY!

YEAH--A PRACTICAL TRAITOR!



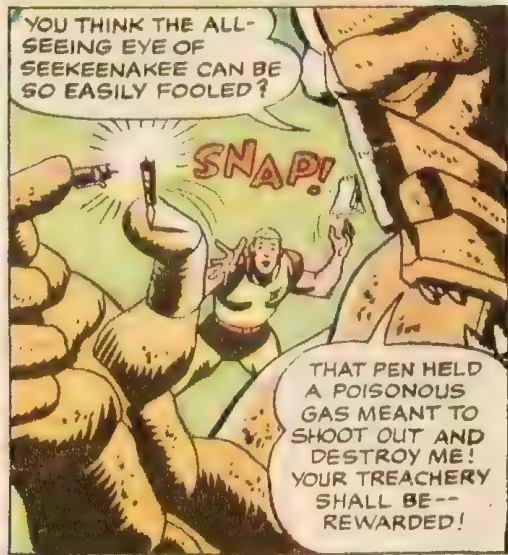
YOU HAVE MADE A WISE CHOICE! FOR EVEN HERE, IN THE GREAT OCEAN OF THE GODS, SEEKEENAKEE HAS HEARD OF THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN!

WE'VE GOT A GOOD PRESS AGENT! NOW LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT A LITTLE PLAN OF MINE! IT SHOULD MAKE YOUR WHOLE JOB EASIER!



IT'S A BRIGHT PIECE OF MILITARY PLANNING, IF I DO SAY SO! HERE, I'LL DRAW YOU A DIAGRAM!

AHHH! THAT PEN! NOW I GET IT!



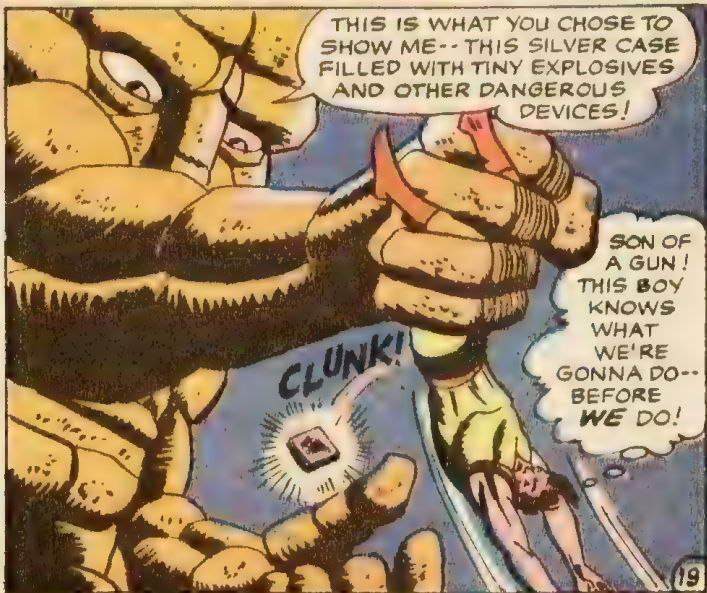
YOU THINK THE ALL-SEEING EYE OF SEEKEENAKEE CAN BE SO EASILY FOOLED?

SNAP!

THAT PEN HELD A POISONOUS GAS MEANT TO SHOOT OUT AND DESTROY ME! YOUR TREACHERY SHALL BE-- REWARDED!



WAIT! HE WAS FOOLISH! BUT IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN! WE'RE WITH YOU, BIG FELLOW! BELIEVE ME! LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING!



THIS IS WHAT YOU CHOSE TO SHOW ME-- THIS SILVER CASE FILLED WITH TINY EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER DANGEROUS DEVICES!

CLUNK!

SON OF A GUN! THIS BOY KNOWS WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO-- BEFORE WE DO!



OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH
CUTE STUFF! THIS GUY
DOESN'T DIG ANYTHING
BUT MUSCLES!

I'VE DOUBLED UP BETTER GUYS
THAN YOU WITH THIS PUNCH! NOT
BIGGER-- BUT BETTER! (UNNNHHH!)

SPLATT!

OWEEE! THIS CAT
IS MADE OF
STONE! MAN, THAT
SMARTS!



NOW, UNBELIEVER--
IT IS *MY* TURN!

STAND STILL, COWARD! YELLOW,
CHICKEN-LIVERED ONE!

WHOOOSH!

FINKS OF STONE
MAY BREAK MY
BONES-- BUT
WORDS WILL
NEVER HURT
ME!



PARDON, KIND SIR, MAY I BORROW
YOUR RIFLE? I SEEM TO HAVE LEFT
MINE ON THE DRESSER
WITH MY WALLET!

OOOF!



FOOL! WHAT
DID YOU THINK
YOU COULD DO
WITH THAT?

T-T-TO TELL
THE TRUTH,
IT'S CLEAN
SLIPPED
MY MIND
NOW!

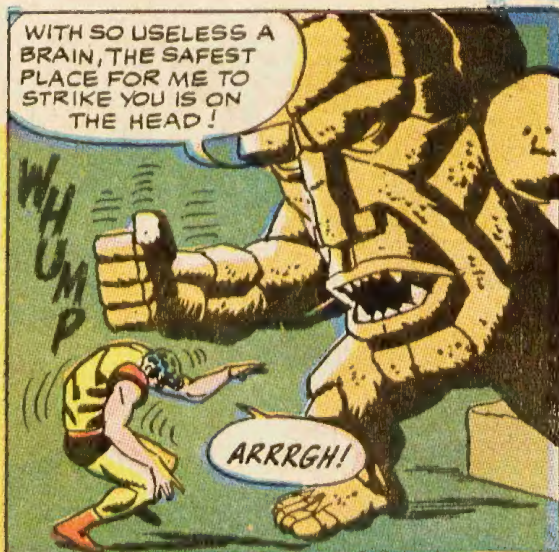
CRACK



I HAVE FINISHED WITH YOU! SEEKEENAKEE HAS MORE IMPORTANT WORK TO DO!

THWACK

UGGHH!



WITH SO USELESS A BRAIN, THE SAFEST PLACE FOR ME TO STRIKE YOU IS ON THE HEAD!

WHUMP

ARRRGH!



NOW I FINISH ALL!

HOLD IT, MR. S! I'VE SEEN THE PRODUCT DEMONSTRATED! I BELIEVE YOU! BUT YOU'D BETTER BELIEVE THIS-- YOUR HOME TOWN IS ABOUT TO BE BLOWN TO BITS!

VANIKI ISLAND? YOU LIE!



WANT PROOF? HOW ABOUT THIS MINI-TV I BUILT? YOU SEE VANIKI IS COMPLETELY DESERTED! WE REMOVED ALL YOUR PEOPLE AND THEN MINED THE ISLAND!

NO! THIS MUST NOT HAPPEN!



DARN RIGHT! WHAT KIND OF ALL-POWERFUL GOD WOULD LET 'EM BLOW UP HIS NEST? AND WHO'D FOLLOW A TWO-BIT DEITY LIKE THAT?

I SHALL PREVENT THIS MYSELF! SOLDIERS-- GUARD THESE MEN TILL MY RETURN!



HANDS UP! NO TRICKS!

SIR, I AM A STUDIOUS, SERIOUS, AND TRUSTWORTHY SOUL-- I DO NOT INDULGE IN PRACTICAL JOKES! UNLIKE YOUR FATHER, I ASSUME!



BUT IT IS MY DUTY
AS AN AMERICAN,
A FORMER BOY
SCOUT, AND A
33 RD DEGREE
MASON, TO WARN
YOU THAT YOU ARE
ABOUT TO BE
ATTACKED FROM
BEHIND!

DID YOU THINK I
WOULD BE FOOLED
BY THAT ?



FRANKLY, NO, SIR!
I DID NOT THINK
YOU WOULD BE
FOOL ENOUGH TO
TURN AROUND--

URRGH!

WHOMP!

IF YOU HAD
BEEN, THIS
NEVER
WOULD
HAVE
WORKED!



POW KWOMP SPLAT OWWW ARRGH OOF

AND FOR OUR
FINAL PERFORMANCE--
WE WILL KNOCK OUT
FOUR WITH ONE BLOW!

-- WHILE SINGING THE
"BATTLE HYMN OF
THE REPUBLIC"--

--AND NEVER
SNUFFING OUT
THE CANDLE
BALANCED UPON
OUR HEADS!

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LATER, AT THE UNDERWATER HEADQUARTERS OF THE CHALLS...

NEAT WORK, MEN! THE HOLY FOUR BEHIND BARS AND STONE-FACE DEAD!

I'M NOT SORRY TO GET THAT PETRIFIED KILLER OFF OUR BACKS! IT WAS WEIRD THE WAY HE ANTICIPATED OUR EVERY MOVE!



I GOT NEWS FOR YOU-- THE ISLANDERS DUG UP THE BOMB RUBBLE JUST NOW AND-- SEEKEENAKEE WAS GONE!

H-H-HOLY COW! YOU SUPPOSE HE REALLY WAS IMMORTAL?

NO-- JUST HARD-HEADED!

WHO IS OLD STONE-FACE? HOW DOES HE KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CHALLENGERS THAN EVEN THEY DO? IF YOU MISS THE NEXT ISH, YOU'RE MISSING THE HOTTEST THING THAT EVER POPPED FROM THE DC OVEN!



The End

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